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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Wittenberg

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EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 29 May to 3 July 1952

DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED

11 August 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 3 July 1952, the Arado Kaserne on Bresdener Strasse, Wittenberg, quartered about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Two hundred troops without arms practiced in the yard. Two T-34/85 tanks, tanks and 2 JSU-122 guns and a 122-mm howitzer stood in the yard.

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2. On 3 July 1952, the Flak Kaserne on Nordendstrasse was occupied by about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank and motor transport insignia. Several trucks stood in the barracks yard. A sidecar motorcycle left the billeting area.

3. On 3 July, the Taunentzien Kaserne on Berliner Strasse was occupied by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. There was no training activity.

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4. On 3 July, the Dessler Kaserne on Teucheler Weg quartered a rear detail of about 60 soldiers. No training activity or vehicular traffic were noticed. (1)

5. During the period from 30 June to 3 July, engineer exercises were held at five points on the Elbe River in Wittenberg. A sentry wearing black-bordered black epaulets stood guard at the former swimming pool west-southwest of Wittenberg. Four pontoons were on the bank of the river, while another pontoon was hauled ashore. Engineer equipment including pile drivers, paddles, etc., was stored in rooms of the former bathing establishment. About 47 soldiers, including some with black-bordered black epaulets, worked on the engineer equipment or swam. A tent on the Elbe River bank about 250 meters south-southeast of Triftstrasse was guarded by a sentry who wore black-bordered black epaulets. Eight pontoons were on the bank. Truck

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carrying 15 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets, stopped in front of the tent, while two soldiers with portable radio sets went to the pontoons. Ten tents, each about 5 x 5 meters, guarded by sentries with black-bordered black epaulets were set up about 250 meters south of the Die Wendel and about 300 soldiers organized into groups of 30 to 40 men in bathing suits appeared to receive instruction in the handling of pontoons nearby. About 20 pontoons, some of them interconnected with iron girders, were on the bank. Two trucks, with field kitchens, stood near the tents. About 500 meters east of the tents there was a shed with life preservers and pile drivers which was guarded by sentries with black-bordered black epaulets. Four pontoons were on the bank. Three

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officers and 21 men wearing black-bordered black epaulets were engaged in map-reading exercise about 1,000 meters south-southeast of Luthersbrunnen. Two motorboats, each with three men, were on the Elbe River between the afore mentioned troops and the equipment shed west of them.

6. On 24 and 25 June, about 40 trucks [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] each carrying one pontoon and, some also carrying planks, drove to the Elbe River west of the Piesteritz bathing establishment near Wittenberg where about 80 to 100 soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets unloaded the bridge equipment and built a bridge of about 30 pontoons across the Elbe River on 25 June. The bridge was completed during the evening hours. Source emphasized that the troops did not wear coveralls but full uniform and were equipped with submachine guns. The bridge was removed again by the same troops on 26 June, the equipment loaded onto trucks which, according to source, left toward the Flak Kaserne on Nordendstrasse. Source believed that the unit was identical with an engineer unit he observed at Wittenberg railroad station shortly before it was unloaded at 3 a.m. on 4 June. (2)

7. On 6 July, the Taunentzien Kaserne on Berliner Strasse was occupied by about 250 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and, some black-bordered black epaulets.

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8. On 23 June, the Arado Kaserne on Dresdener Strasse quartered about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. A craftsman employed at the installation stated that the 15 T-34 tanks there as well as the troops belonged to the unit in the Flak Kaserne. During the days prior to 28 June, the troops engaged in callisthenics, close-order drill and maintenance duty, each time in groups of 30 up to 100 men.

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9. On 28 June, the Flak Kaserne on Nordendstrasse quartered a unit of soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and motor transport insignia and a unit of soldiers who wore black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia. Source observed in the billeting area: up to eight T-34 tanks, [redacted] about 120 unarmed soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets engaged in close-order drill; 40 men engaged in physical exercise; and two groups of about 30 men each marching into the installation from the direction of Labetz, carrying full packs and infantry weapons. About 120 other soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets left for combat training toward Labetz. A convey of 12 motor vehicles carrying engineer equipment including pontoons and timber and troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets and carrying infantry weapons and assault equipment was seen in the installation.

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10. On 21 June, truck [redacted] carrying billeting equipment and soldiers, wearing black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia entered the Taunentzien Kaserne on Berliner Strasse. Truck [redacted] with hoisting gear and truck [redacted] the latter carrying 15 men wearing black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia and luggage, drove from the installation to the railroad station. Boxes were loaded onto a train over the ramp by a hoisting gear on truck [redacted] (1) On 20 June, trucks [redacted] drove to the warehouse in Wittenberg. (3)

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Soviet documents found on the Teucheler training grounds on 29 May 1952 included:

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- b. A training schedule for instruction with the personnel of a motorcycle driver course; approved by Gds Senior Lieutenant Melnikov (fnu), (Tech), deputy commanding officer in technical matters; and containing the following data on the model M-72 motorcycle:

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Length  | 2,380 mm       |
| Width   | 1,560 mm       |
| Height  | 975 mm         |
| Height from ground                                      | 135 mm         |
| Load capacity   | 300 kg         |
| Weight of fueled motorcycle with sidecar                | 350 kg         |
| Maximum speed with sidecar                              | 85 km per hour |
| Fuel consumption per 100 km                             | 7 liters       |
| Oil consumption per 100 km                              | 0.15 kg        |
| Power of engine   | 22 hp          |
| Piston displacement                                     | 746 cm         |
| Capacity of tank  | 22 liters      |
| Capacity of oil tank of engine                          | 2 liters       |
| Quantity of oil in gear box                             | 0.8 liter      |
| Quantity of oil in universal transmission               | 0.175 liter    |
| Quantity of oil in the shock absorber of the front axle | 0.1 liter      |

(4)

#### Comments.

- (1) The appearance of motor vehicles of army troops and of the four divisions of the Third Gds Mecz Army in traffic from and to the Flak Kaserne and Taunentzien Kaserne as well as the observation of engineer troops in the two installations and of the convoy with engineer equipment in the Flak Kaserne confirm the assumption that these barracks installations are partly occupied by engineer units of the Third Gds Mecz Army, which are concentrated for field exercises on the Elbe River in Wittenberg. The fact that the Beseler Kaserne is occupied only by a rear unit again confirms the absence from the post of elements of the 6th Gds Tank Div which are periodically confirmed as being stationed at the Warden-Markendorf troop training grounds.
- (2) The observations by the two sources constitute additional details on the engineer training on the Elbe River near Wittenberg. The 40 trucks with pontoons reported by source of paragraph 6 belong to the 35th Engr Regt (US) of the Third Gds Mecz Army. Other sources have also reported that the regiment was unloaded in Wittenberg on 3 and 4 June 1952.
- (3) The motor vehicles belong to the 6th Gds Tank Div and to the CGFC.
- (4) Gds Senior Lieutenant Melnikov (fnu) (Tech) is reported for the first time.

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